

REMARKS

Claims 1–7 and 9-21 are pending in the application.

The Office Action indicates that claims 1-7 and 9-20 are allowed. For the reasons set forth below, it is submitted that claim 21 should also be allowed.

The Office Action rejects claim 21 under 35 USC 102(b) over Stampfli (USP 3,842,860), Jensen (USP 5,842,860), or Kradlicko (USP 6,182,942).

Claim 21 is directed to a recess portion that contacts a core assembly so that the core assembly is disposed therein with a predetermined clearance from a side wall of the recess portion (see Figs. 12A, 12B). In the present invention, the clearance, which serves as a passage through which lubricant flows, is provided between the core assembly and the side wall of the recess portion formed in the cylinder head. Stampfli discloses that a casing has a recess 4 in which a three-way valve is provided, but it has no clearance between the three-way valve and a side wall of the recess 4 because a portion of the three-way valve is housed in the recess portion by a threaded fastening ring 6 engaging a tapping formed on the side wall of the recess (Col. 1, lines 49-53).

Jensen merely discloses a solenoid valve 10, but no mounting portion where the solenoid valve mounts. Jensen discloses that the magnet 22 and coils 26, 28 are arranged such that a small gap is provided between the housing structure and the magnet/coil combination (Col. 2, lines 25-31). It is not the gap provided between the magnet/coil combination, which may be regarded as the core assembly as cited in claim 21, and the mounting portion (*i.e.* the cylinder head 108 in the claimed invention), where the solenoid valve consisting of the housing structure and the magnet/coil combination is mounted. Jensen does not disclose any portions where the solenoid valve is mounted.

Kadlicko discloses that an electromagnetic actuator 10 is connected to a hydraulic valve 12. It discloses that a counterbore 96 (*i.e.*, recess portion) formed in the bobbin 34 is dimensioned so as to receive one end of the core 90 so that a predetermined clearance is provided between the radially

outer surface of the core and the radially inner surface of the counterbore 96. however, it is not the clearance between the coil assembly 28 and the body 16 or the valve 12, each of which may be regarded as the mounting portion wherein the coil assembly 28 is mounted.

In summary, the core assembly as recited in claim 21 represents the assembly 11 which is formed by integrally resin-molding the electromagnet 31 and the electromagnet 32, and the clearance which claim 21 is subjected to is the one between the core assembly and the mounting portion wherein the core assembly is mounted. No references disclose or teach the clearance provided between the core assembly and the recess portion of the mounting portion.

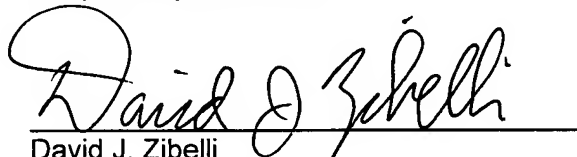
It is respectfully submitted that claim 21 is allowable for the reasons indicated above.

For at least the above reasons, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. Prompt consideration and allowance are solicited.

The Office is authorized to charge any fees due under 37 C.F.R. 1.16 or 1.17 to Deposit Account No. 11-0600.

Should there be any questions, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicants undersigned attorney.

Respectfully submitted,


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